

THE JACOBS REPORT

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MICHIGAN SENATE
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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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CURRICULUM SENT TO CONFERENCE

Compromise Product Expected Next Week

Senator Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland) and Representative Brian Palmer (R-Bruce Twp.), chairs of the education committees in their respective chambers, were unable to work out differences between the House and Senate versions of the new high school curriculum legislation.

The bills will go to conference committee next week, eliminating the opportunity for further amendments that might delay or derail final passage. The issue, which inspires different opinions (and sometimes, amendments) from each person reviewing it, has idled in each chamber.

The big issue, still, is Algebra II. One school of thought sees the subject as an informal prerequisite to the future workforce. The cognitive challenges of Algebra II teach the logical processing tools necessary to function in a high-tech job. Others feel that the subject is too hard for some students, who will grow discouraged and drop/flunk out of school. Those folks want flexibility added to the program. Just how much bending should be done is the center of contention.

A conference committee session could happen as early as next week.

SENATE ABOLISHES S.B.T.

Stage Set for Showdown

This week the Senate passed HB 5743 on a vote of 21-17. The bill will eliminate the Single Business Tax on December 31, 2007.

Senate Appropriations Committee chair Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Troy) was the only Republican to join a solid Democratic caucus opposing the bill.

Governor Jennifer Granholm issued a press release stating that she is willing to eliminate the SBT only if adequate protections are made to ensure individuals are not stuck with the bill.

Should HB 5743 be vetoed (and that is the presumption), waiting in the wings is a petition drive launched by Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson. If the Patterson proposal garnishes enough signatures for ballot placement, then Governor Granholm would have no control over it.

Regardless of what happens, the SBT is destined for extinction. Current law provides for repeal of the tax on December 31, 2009.

The major beef with the SBT is that it taxes operational costs instead of profits, providing a steady revenue diet for the state while starving businesses that are either already losing money, or fighting to stay in the black.

DEMOCRATS TO PRESS WASHINGTON ON OUTSOURCING

Lawmakers Criticize Free-Trade Policies that Hurt Michigan

On Monday, March 27th, Michigan Senate Democrats will be joined by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow & U.S. Congressman John Dingell calling upon Congress to take immediate action on proposals to level the playing field for the American manufacturing industry and end the outsourcing of American jobs.

Royal Oak

9:30 AM

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow

State Sen. Gilda Jacobs

Oakland County Community College - Royal Oak Campus, Room A102

739 South Washington, Royal Oak

Monroe

10:00AM

U.S. Congressman John Dingell

State Sen. Ray Basham

State Sen. Liz Brater

Ford/Visteon Plant Union Hall

UAW Local 723

281 Detroit, Monroe

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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